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INFORMATION REPORT

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Austria/USSR

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SUBJECT

Proposed Consolidation of Soviet-controlled Electrical Industry in Austria

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SOURCE

Friedrich TUPI, Austrian director of the USIA-controlled Siemens-Schuckert plant in Vienna XX, Engerthstrasse, has allegedly suggested to the Soviets a plan for consolidation of a Soviet electrical industry in Austria. Details of the plan have not been reported. In general, the scheme proposes to unite the Siemens-Schuckert Kabelwerk in Vienna XXI, Siemensstrasse, the Siemens-Schuckert electrical plants in Vienna XXII, Siemensstrasse, and Vienna XXIII, Engerthstrasse, together with the Osram incandescent lamp factory, all at present under Soviet control, into a large electrical trust. Should no Austrian treaty be reached in London, this trust would then continue in competition with the Austrian electrical industry as a purely Soviet enterprise. If, however, a treaty settlement should be reached, half the stock could then be sold to selected Austrians and the combine run as a partnership supported by Soviet capital. It is envisaged in this plan that eventually, through Soviet investments and pressure tactics, such a combine would, in a matter of a few years, be able to gain and retain the upper hand in the Austrian electrical field. It was further reported that the Soviets received this plan enthusiastically and are already considering measures for putting it into effect.

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